

A NEW NORTH AMERICAN GENUS OF EUMENIDAE
(HYMENOPTERA: VESPOIDEA)

ROY R. SNELLING

Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, Los Angeles, California 90007

ABSTRACT—A new genus, *Smeringodynerus*, is described for *Odynerus morelios* de Saussure, previously placed in the genus *Euodynerus*. Pertinent illustrations, including a habitus figure of the male, are included.

While engaged in a routine study of some species currently assigned to the genus *Euodynerus*, I discovered that one species, at least, should not be placed there. Further investigation revealed that this species cannot be placed in any of the existing genera. The higher classification of the New World eumenids has not received much attention. Parker (1966) has provided the first adequate key to the North American genera. Much work remains to be done, especially in the fauna of the tropical areas.

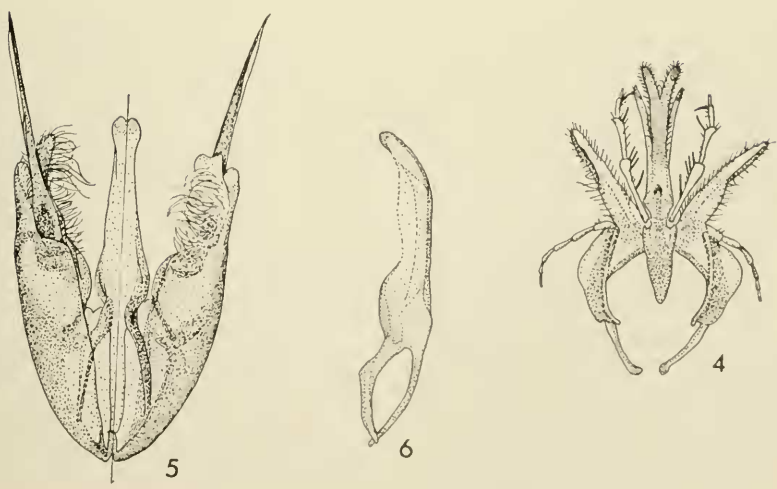
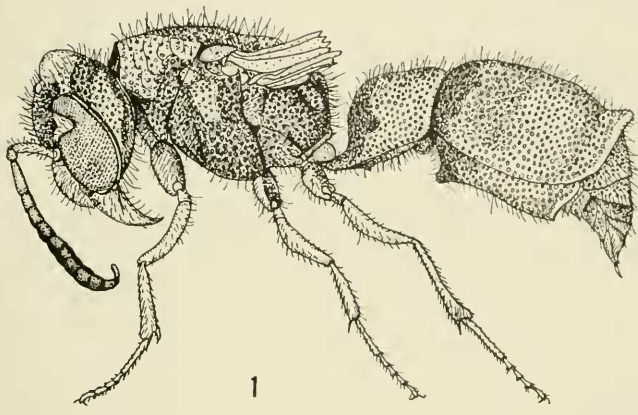
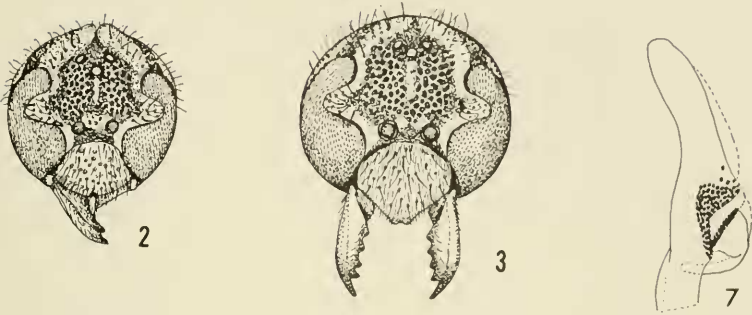
Smeringodynerus Snelling, new genus

Diagnosis: First discoidal cell acutely pointed apically; summit of postscutellum rounded; lower propodeal lamella free on 3 sides; male antenna rolled apically; abdomen sessile; mandible 5-toothed in both sexes; head about as broad as long.

Description: Body stoutly cylindrical; head about as broad as long, antennal sockets slightly below midpoint in full-face view; mandibles 5-toothed in both sexes; mouthparts short, not extending beyond fore coxa, maxillary and labial palpi, respectively, 4- and 6-segmented (fig. 4); labrum elongate, slender, narrowly rounded apically, extending about $\frac{1}{2}$ length of mandible; vertex bituberculate in both sexes; female without mite chambers on vertex, but with a pair of dense clusters of short, golden hairs, clusters separated by about their own length; front face of pronotum without median pits, but with scattered coarse punctures laterally; without raised pronotal lamella, humeral angles sharp; postscutellum rounded in profile, propodeal enclosure bounded anteriorly by arcuate lamella-like carina and laterally by low carina; lower propodeal lamella free on 3 sides, almost square; first tergite ventrally not overlapping first sternite anteriorly; second sternite without median basal suture, with strongly raised transverse tubercule; wings elongate, narrow, first discoidal cell acute apically; male genitalia stout (fig. 5); aedeagus blunt, short, simple; digitus with many sensillae basally, membranous apically, inner face with dense, long, simple hairs (fig. 7).

→

Fig. 1-7. *Smeringodynerus morelios* (de Saussure). 1, male, lateral view. 2, male, frontal view of head. 3, female, same. 4, mouthparts, glossal hairs not shown. 5, genitalia, dorsal (left) and ventral views. 6, aedeagus in profile. 7, volsella, pubescence removed. Figures by Ruth Ann DeNicola.



Type-species: *Odynerus morelios* H. de Saussure, 1857.

Etymology: Greek, *smereinx* (bristle) + generic root, *Odynerus*, because of the peculiar long, black bristles on the body.

Discussion: *Smeringodynerus* is presently known to include only the type-species, which ranges from western Texas to southern Arizona, south into temperate portions of Mexico.

In the key to North American genera by Parker (1966), *Smeringodynerus* will go to *Cephalodynerus* from which it differs in the broader head, five-toothed mandible and lack of a median suture at the base of the second sternite. As noted above, *S. morelios* has previously been placed in *Euodynerus*; it must be excluded from that genus because of the free lower propodeal lamella, the absence of a median suture at the base of the second sternite, the narrower labrum and the triangular three apical mandibular teeth.

This genus is probably most closely related to *Cephalodynerus*, possibly derived from a similar primitive stock. Unlike this and many other other eumenine genera, the three apical teeth of the mandible are all triangular and of approximately equal size.

REFERENCES

- Parker, F. D. 1966. A revision of the North American species in the genus *Leptochilus* (Hymenoptera: Eumenidae). Misc. Publ., Entomol. Soc. Amer. 5:151-229.

NOTE ON THE USE OF THE SUFFIXES *-FER* AND *-GER* IN NOMENCLATURE

It is a common misconception that words formed with the suffixes *-fer* and *-ger*, both meaning 'bearing,' should have the ending *-us* in the masculine. These suffixes are both Latin and are derived from the verbs *fero* and *gero*. They form words that are considered to be basically adjectives. However, a number of them are used also as nouns (substantives), a property of adjectives generally in Latin and many other languages. Whatever their use, as adjective or as noun, the suffixes have the following three gender forms: *-fer* and *-ger*, masculine; *-fera* and *-gera*, feminine; and *-ferum* and *-gerum*, neuter. See Latin dictionaries under such words as *lucifer*, *signifer*, *armiger*, *setiger* (*sactiger*).

Therefore, the statements by De Jong (1974, Zool. Meded. 48, no. 1, p. 4) in reference to the correct form of the name *Carcharodus flocciferus* (Zeller) are wrong. The suffix *-fer* is not Greek, although the Greek verb *pherō* is cognate with the Latin *fero*. The original combination used by Zeller, *Hesperia floccifera*, is correct, but the later combination should be *Carcharodus floccifer*. Many other similar examples could be cited.

GEORGE C. STEYSKAL, *Systematic Entomology Laboratory, ARS, IIBIII, c/o U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. 20560.*